Opposition to revival of nuclear power

*312. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that scientists in the US and European Parliament had opposed the revival of nuclear power;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is also aware that the war industries and the Nuclear Suppliers Group countries are anxious to dump their hardware in India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that some sections of public opinion in Europe and the United States oppose revival of nuclear power. At the same time, there is renewed interest in nuclear energy even among sections, which have earlier opposed nuclear power, due to considerations of energy security and environment protection. In the USA, several dozen reactors are in various stages of proposal development. European countries such as France and Finland continue to set up nuclear power plants. In Asia, there is greater interest in nuclear power; countries such as South Korea and China are building more nuclear power reactors while others in South East Asia and West Asia are planning to set up nuclear power plants for the first time.

(c) and (d) International trade in nuclear hardware, controlled by the Nuclear Suppliers Group, is limited. India's imports of nuclear items or conventional arms will be based on a sovereign assessment of our needs. The question of dumping of hardware on India does not arise.

Rapid rise in global warming

*313. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come to know about rapid rise in global warming during the period 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) how far it is expected to go up during the period 2007-08;

(c) how it has adversely affected the fertility of the agricultural land, water resources and breathing of human being and animals; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of human beings and other living creatures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the results of analysis of data on global temperature anomalies by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA and Climate Research Unit (CRU), University of East Anglia, UK, which is used by World Metrological Organization (WMO), the years 2005 and 2006 have been observed to be the warmest, however, there are no specific projections for the year 2007-08.